

CPYRGHT

Matter Of Fact • By Joseph and Stewart Alsop

New Faces In State Department

THE KEY faces are being painted in the collective portrait of the staff who will make American foreign policy in the new Administration.

Gen. Walter Bedell Smith, now director of the Central Intelligence Agency, has been asked to serve as Undersecretary of State in charge of policy. The present Deputy Undersecretary, H. Freeman Matthews, is to continue in his present post, as is the Assistant Secretary in charge of Far Eastern Affairs, John Allison. Henry Byroade, assistant secretary for another vital and troubled area, the Middle East, is also likely to be retained. But Douglas MacArthur, a foreign service officer who is the nephew of the general, is currently slated to replace Charles E. Bohlen as counselor of the department.

Appointments of equal interest are also in the wind abroad. The ambassadorship to Italy was at first offered to Connecticut's Governor, John Lodge. He refused, and at his suggestion the place is now to go to Clare Boothe Luce, wife of the publisher of Time and a powerful personality in her own right. Mrs. Luce in Rome will hold by far the most important foreign policy post given to a woman.

THE ambassadorship to Germany has meanwhile been offered to President James Bryant Conant of Harvard University. The motive here was a desire to confide the difficult German problem to the strongest possible man, who would command the maximum of respect. It was also desired not to name a big businessman in this instance. It seems hardly possible, nonetheless, that President Conant will agree to leave his present post.

The choice of the young New

York banker, Douglas Dillon, as Ambassador to Paris, is not quite final as yet, owing to political objections in New Jersey. But the transfer to Madrid of the present Ambassador to Paris, James Dunn, is likely in any case. Dr. Ralph Bunche is understood to be under consideration both for the ambassadorship to Moscow and the post in New Delhi; and the former Ambassador to Moscow, George F. Kennan, is being tipped as the replacement of Jefferson Caffery in Egypt.

These names should be enough to convey an impression. The most interesting aspect of the general picture is undoubtedly in the State Department itself, concerning which the future secretary, John Foster Dulles, has gradually altered his views.

Interestingly enough, Dulles did not originally desire this secretaryship which has always been regarded as his dearest wish; and contrary to universal report, he would not have been named secretary if Gov. Thomas E. Dewey had beaten Harry S. Truman in 1948. Dewey's plan was to establish a powerful national policy planning staff, with wide authority in the twin spheres of foreign and defense policy. Dulles was to have headed this staff, while Lewis W. Douglas would probably have been Dewey's choice for the Secretaryship of State.

As soon as President-elect Eisenhower was elected, this same project was revived, with Dulles slated for the same high place as before. The Secretaryship of State, it can now be disclosed, was actually offered to former Senator Henry Cabot Lodge (R-Mass.). Only when Lodge refused, on the ground of his difficult relationship with Senator Robert A. Taft (R-

Ohio), was Dulles induced to take the secretaryship.

THE FACT that Dulles has now offered the Undersecretaryship to General Smith may be taken as especially suggestive. The matter is not completely settled. For one thing, General Smith is intensely anxious that he should be succeeded at the CIA by the other exceedingly able Dulles brother, Allen, and there is some foolish dispute about this. But in choosing Smith, who was Eisenhower's chief of staff in the war, John Foster Dulles has plainly signified a desire to have a State Department team that can work as well with Eisenhower as with himself. The same impression is conveyed by the choice of Douglas MacArthur, whose service as political adviser to SHAPE also brought him into close contact with President-elect Eisenhower.

The Smith appointment has other meanings as well. By now, indeed, it would be hard to name any man in the American Government with quite the equal of General Smith's experiences. At the CIA, he has brilliantly discharged a great civilian administrative responsibility. By training, he knows the whole sphere of defense. As Ambassador to Moscow, he gained the sort of special knowledge of the Soviet Union that cannot be replaced by reading papers and reports.

Finally, all these appointments—of Smith, Matthews, MacArthur and the rest of the State Department staff, and of the various new Ambassadors, clearly imply that there is to be a high degree of continuity in our foreign policy, as well as the new look that is so often demanded. All in all, if all these planned appointments go through as hoped, John Foster Dulles has got off to a strong start.

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